

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A load balancing method executed in [[for]] a system having a storage and a plurality of information processing modules that can be shared among business services, comprising the steps of:

registering a business configuration definition of each business service including a schedule of a corresponding business service in a business configuration management repository of said storage by a configuration unit of said system;

storing a service level objective of each business service in a service-level-objective table of said storage by a service-level-objective unit of said system;

storing information on performance of each of said plurality of information processing modules in a performance management table of said storage by said configuration unit;

receiving a designation of a business service and reading the schedule of a designated business service from the business configuration definition registered with the business configuration management repository by a reservation unit of said system;

acquiring from said service-level-objective unit the stored service level objective of the designated business service by said reservation unit;

partitioning the schedule of the designated business service read from the business configuration definition into a plurality of partial schedules according to the acquired service level objective by said reservation unit;

registering performance information for the plurality of information processing modules

in a performance management table of said storage, respectively;

registering in advance judgment information indicating contents of the start process and finish process of the plurality of partial schedules of each business service in the business configuration management repository;

using a processor, comparing the judgment information of an already-reserved business service with the judgment information of the designated business service, and thereby selecting one or more information processing modules of said plurality of information processing modules whose performance information stored in the performance management table satisfies the service level objective in each partial schedule, reserving the information processing modules selected satisfying the service level objective in the partial schedules as information processing modules for executing the designated business service in the schedule in said storage, and omitting a step in a start process or finish process of the designated business service that coincides with a step of a business service that has already been reserved with the information processing module; and

executing the designated business service with the plurality of information processing modules reserved in the receiving step.

2. (Previously Presented) The load balancing method according to claim 1, wherein the partitioning of the schedule read from the business configuration definition by said reservation unit is conducted in units of spans in each of which the service level objective remains constant.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The load balancing method according to claim 1, wherein the reservation of the information processing modules for executing the designated business service in said storage is made by omitting a particular step in a start process or finish process of the designated business service [[if]] when a step capable of substituting for the particular step has not been omitted.

6. (Currently Amended) The load balancing method according to claim 1, wherein the reservation of the information processing modules for executing the designated business service in said storage is made by omitting a particular step in a start process or finish process of the designated business service [[if]] when the omission of the particular step has no effect on already-reserved business services.

7. (Previously Presented) The load balancing method according to claim 1, wherein the reservation of the information processing modules for executing the designated business service is made avoiding omission of a particular step under processing of the designated business service to make the reservation omitting the particular step when the reservation is made possible.

8. (Previously Presented) The load balancing method according to claim 1, wherein diversion information indicating that an information processing module that has already been reserved by another business service is diverted into the designated business service is stored in said storage when it is impossible to fully reserve the information processing modules for

executing the designated business service.

9. (Currently Amended) A load balancing system comprising:

- a business configuration management processing unit which registers a business configuration definition of each business service including a schedule of the business service with a business configuration management repository;
- a service-level-objective management processing unit which stores at least a service level objective of each business service in a service-level-objective management table;
- a performance management processing unit which stores information on performance of each of a plurality of information processing modules in a performance management table; and
- a reservation management processing unit connected with the business configuration management processing unit, the service-level-objective management processing unit, and the performance management processing unit, wherein the reservation management processing unit [[which]] receives a designation of a business service and reads the schedule of a designated business service from the business configuration definition registered with the business configuration management repository, acquires from said service-level-objective unit the stored service level objective of the designated business service, partitions the schedule of the designated business service read from the business configuration definition into a plurality of partial schedules according to the acquired service level objective, registers performance information for the plurality of information processing modules in a performance management table of said storage, respectively, registers in advance the business configuration definition that includes flag information indicating contents of the start process and finish process of the plurality of partial schedules of each business service with the business configuration

management repository, compares the flag information of an already-reserved business service with the flag information of the designated business service, selects one or more information processing modules of said plurality of information processing modules whose performance information stored in the performance management table satisfies the service level objective in each partial schedule, reserves the information processing modules selected for the partial schedules as information processing modules for executing the designated business service in the schedule, and omits a step in a start process or finish process of the designated business service that coincides with a step of a business service that has already been reserved with the information processing module,

wherein the plurality of information processing modules reserved execute the designated business service.

10. (Original) The load balancing system according to claim 9, wherein the reservation management processing unit conducts the partitioning of the schedule in units of spans in each of which the service level objective remains constant.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The load balancing system according to claim 9, wherein the reservation management processing unit makes the reservation of the information processing modules for executing the designated business service by omitting a particular step in a start

process or finish process of the designated business service [[if]] when a step capable of substituting for the particular step has not been omitted.

14. (Currently Amended) The load balancing system according to claim 9, wherein the reservation management processing unit makes the reservation of the information processing modules for executing the designated business service by omitting a particular step in a start process or finish process of the designated business service [[if]] when the omission of the particular step has no effect on already-reserved business services.

15. (Previously Presented) The load balancing system according to claim 9, wherein the reservation management processing unit makes the reservation of the information processing modules for executing the designated business service avoiding omission of a particular step under processing of the designated business service to make the reservation omitting the particular step when the reservation is made possible.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium embedded with a program for instructing a computer in a system having a storage and a plurality of information processing modules that can be shared among business services, the program, when executed, causing the computer to function as:

a business configuration management processing unit which registers a business configuration definition of each business service including a schedule of a corresponding

business service with a business configuration management repository;

a service-level-objective management processing unit which stores at least a service level objective of each business service in a service-level-objective management table;

a performance management processing unit which stores information on performance of each of said plurality of information processing modules in a performance management table;

and

a reservation management processing unit which receives a designation of a business service and reads the schedule of a designated business service from the business configuration definition registered with the business configuration management repository, acquires from said service-level-objective unit the stored service level objective of the designated business service, partitions the schedule of the designated business service read from the business configuration definition into a plurality of partial schedules according to the acquired service level objective, registers performance information for the plurality of information processing modules in a performance management table of said storage, respectively, registers in advance the business configuration definition that includes flag information indicating contents of the start process and finish process of the plurality of partial schedules of each business service with the business configuration management repository, compares the flag information of an already-reserved business service with the flag information of the designated business service, selects one or more information processing modules whose performance information stored in the performance management table satisfies the service level objective in each partial schedule, reserves the information processing modules selected for the partial schedules as information processing modules for executing the designated business service in the schedule, and omits a step in a start process or finish process of the designated business service that coincides with a step of a

business service that has already been reserved with the information processing module,

wherein the plurality of information processing modules reserved execute the designated business service.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~program~~ computer readable storage medium according to claim 17, wherein the reservation management processing unit conducts the partitioning of the schedule in units of spans in each of which the service level objective remains constant.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~program~~ computer readable storage medium according to claim 17, wherein the reservation management processing unit realizes the omission by:

registering in advance the business configuration definition that includes flag information indicating contents of the start process and finish process of each business service with the business configuration management repository, and

comparing the flag information of the already-reserved business service with the flag information of the designated business service.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~program~~ computer readable storage medium according to claim 17, wherein the reservation management processing unit makes the reservation of the information processing modules for executing the designated business service by omitting a particular step in a start process or finish process of the designated business service [[if]] when a step capable of substituting for the particular step has not been omitted.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~program~~ computer readable storage medium according to



claim 17, wherein the reservation management processing unit makes the reservation of the information processing modules for executing the designated business service by omitting a particular step in a start process or finish process of the designated business service [[if]] when the omission of the particular step has no effect on already-reserved business services.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~program~~ computer readable storage medium according to claim 17, wherein the reservation management processing unit makes the reservation of the information processing modules for executing the designated business service avoiding omission of a particular step under processing of the designated business service to make the reservation omitting the particular step when the reservation is made possible.